



GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 34

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. Home of Air Dominance Training

Aug. 26, 2005

In brief

Chief of Staff change of command on AF Link

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force change of command will be carried live on Air Force Link at 9 a.m. Sept. 2. There will be a hot button on the Air Force Link home page that will link to the live feed. It will also be carried live on the Pentagon Channel.

Hearing aid benefit

Beginning Thursday, active duty family members who meet specific hearing-loss requirements will be eligible to receive hearing aids including services and supplies as a Tricare benefit. For more information, beneficiaries may visit the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil or call the Tricare Regional Office South toll-free at (800) 444-5445.

What's inside



MRA students take on LOX training
... PAGE 11



The history of unit patches revealed
... PAGE 19

Intake inside

Senior Airman Jason Chapman, 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, checks for cracks in the intake of an F-15 Eagle engine Tuesday here. Crew chiefs inspect the intakes of the jets for foreign objects and cracks before and after every sortie. The inspections reduce the possibility of damage to the engines and helps keep the pilots safe.



2nd Lt. William Powell

AFPC notifies Airmen of criminal activity

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The Air Force is notifying more than 33,000 Airmen that a security breach has occurred in the online Assignment Management System.

The notification comes after Air Force Personnel Center officials here alerted Air Force and federal investigators to unusually high activity on a single user's AMS account in June.

AMS, an online program used for assignment preferences and career management, contains career information on officers and enlisted Airmen, as well as some personal information such as birth dates and Social Security numbers, said Col. Lee Hall, director of assignments at AFPC. It does not contain personal addresses, phone numbers or specific information about family members.

A malicious user accessed about half of the officer force's individual information, while only a handful of noncommissioned officers were affected, said Lt. Col. John

Clarke, AFPC's deputy director of personnel data systems. The individual used a legitimate user's login information to access and/or download Airmen's personal information.

"We notified Airmen as quickly as we could while still following criminal investigation procedures with the (Office of Special Investigations)," said Maj. Gen. Anthony F. Przybyslawski, AFPC commander. "Protecting Airmen's personal information is something we take very seriously, and we are doing everything we can to catch and prosecute those responsible under the law."

"We notified the individuals involved, outlining what happened and how they can best insulate themselves from this potential risk," the general said. "We've taken steps to increase our system security. We're working with all Air Force agencies to identify vulnerabilities. We must keep our data protected."

In the meantime, AFPC officials said

officers may login to the virtual military personnel flight at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/ to see if their information was viewed. If it was, they will receive a pop-up banner after login which will provide additional information.

The small number of enlisted Airmen who have had their information viewed will be contacted directly. Airmen may also go online to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil and click on "AMS Information" to determine if their personal information was viewed.

Officials also said Airmen may decide to follow Federal Trade Commission guidelines for dealing with identity theft at www.consumer.gov/idtheft/index.html.

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, beginning Sept. 1, everyone is entitled to one free credit check annually. To request this free report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com/.

Any Airman who believes he or she has become a victim of identity theft should contact the local base OSI and legal office.

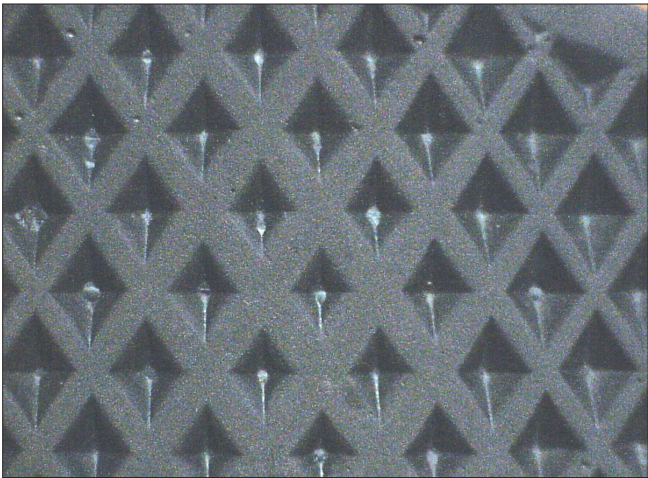


2nd Lt. William Powell

Ten-speed lunch

Tech. Sgt. David Shaw, right, 325th Communications Squadron, leads a group of riders on a 20-mile bike ride during their lunch hour Tuesday at the base Fitness Center. They are looking for other bike-riding enthusiasts of all experience levels to join their group, which meets at 11 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at the Fitness Center. For more information, contact Sergeant Shaw at 283-3842 or Sergeant Souther at 283-3819.

Identify this...



Can you identify this object? If so, send an e-mail to editor@tyndall.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject line. Three correct entries will be chosen at random and drawn from a hat to select the final winner. The 'prize' can be claimed at the Public Affairs office.

The winner for the Aug. 19 "Identify This" is Staff Sgt. Jason Borrero, 325th Contracting Squadron. He correctly guessed that the photo was of a basketball inflation port. Congratulations, Sergeant Borrero! Come and claim your prize!

ON THE STREET

What is the most important safety item for your job?



"My life support equipment is important, like my harness parachute and helmet."

MAJ. STEVE COX
1st Fighter Squadron



"All of our personal protective equipment is important, especially respirators."

MASTER SGT. VIVIENNE DAVIS
325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron



"My most important safety item is my oxygen mask."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS CRAIG COOK
325th Civil Engineer Squadron



"Generic ear protectors are important, so I don't go deaf."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SCOTT PUCCINELLI
43rd Fighter Squadron

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Action Line:
Hasty U-turns
can cause
accidents

Q: *In the morning I see people blowing through the stop light at the main gate and doing a U-turn a couple of yards east toward Mexico Beach to get in the gate. I see a potential accident happening and have contacted security forces about it a few times. I am told they are undermanned or they send someone out there to look at it, but I don't see anything happening.*

A: Security forces are vigilant during the course of their duties and issue tickets when appropriate, but they cannot be in all places at all times. When you see violations, you can help us by reporting the license number to the 325th Security Forces Squadron desk sergeant at 283-2254. The more information we receive, the better the response. If you can give the make, model and year of the vehicle along with a license number security forces will be able to take appropriate action. We will also address your concerns with Parker Police and the Florida Highway Patrol to see if they can help monitor Highway 98 during these peak periods. I assure you we will increase awareness of this dangerous practice and provide an appropriate response from the 325th SFS. If you have further questions please call Senior Master Sgt. Scott Buono, 325th SFS operations superintendent, at 283-2588.

Chief's Sight Picture: BRAC, Joint Basing
will create more efficient combat power

GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER
Chief of Staff of the Air Force

The Department of Defense recently released the largest BRAC proposal in our history, including the recommendation to close ten Air Force installations and realign 62 more. These changes maximize our warfighting capabilities, realign our infrastructure within the future defense strategy, eliminate excess physical capacity, and capitalize on opportunities for joint operations.

They also include a concept called "joint basing" where two or more adjacent or nearby DOD installations are run by a designated service – be it Army, Navy, or Air Force. By consolidating installation support services at conjoined or nearby bases under one Military Department, the Department of Defense hopes to save \$2.3 billion over 20 years.

Under this BRAC recommendation, the Air Force will become the lead installation support provider at six locations (Charleston AFB/Naval Weapons Station Charleston, Joint Base McGuire-Fort Dix, Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Lackland AFB / Randolph AFB / Fort Sam, and Langley AFB / Fort Eustis.) The Air Force will be the supported service at one Army (Joint Base Lewis-McChord) and three Navy lo-

cations (Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Navy Guam/Anderson AFB, and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling-Naval Research Laboratory.)

Modern warfare is joint warfare. In addition to saving scarce funds, this move to joint basing will allow us to build closer relationships and forge stronger ties between services. We will not only train as we fight, we will live as we fight.

The Air Force has a long and suc-

• Airmen will command Airmen – our unity of command at home station will remain intact

• Airmen open and operate airfields – airfields will be operated and maintained by Airmen

• Provide quality services at the best value

Establishing joint bases will take time. We are working with the Army and Navy to ensure that we do it smartly and are mindful of the lessons learned from past joint basing initiatives. The Office of the Secretary of Defense expects to establish the basic implementation policy by the end of this summer, with work on common standards and metrics continuing in the following months. Together, we will undertake pilot projects to explore how to best establish mutually acceptable joint basing agreements. However, until these projects are complete

and BRAC is signed into law, it is premature to enter into any additional cooperative or inter-service joint basing agreements.

Joint basing will neither lower our standards nor compromise our warfighting capabilities. Combining capabilities and eliminating unnecessary duplication and redundancy will save scarce funds and result in more efficient installations from which we, and our sister services, will more effectively project combat power for our nation.

"This move to Joint Basing will allow us to build closer relationships and forge stronger ties between services."

GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER
Chief of Staff of the Air Force



cessful history of working toward common goals in a joint environment without compromising Air Force principles and the well being of our people – joint basing will be no different. Our guiding precepts as we move forward with joint basing are:

• Maintain uncompromised warfighting capability, including expeditionary combat support forces

• Preserve our installations as fighting positions and training platforms for our expeditionary force

Action Line
Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

Without a paddle: River teaches ORM lesson

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

“I’m going down the river no matter what you say!”

Dennis stared at the three of us defiantly. Jill, Mitzi and I stared back in disbelief. I shook my head and stepped forward.

“I’ll go with you,” I said. I regret those words to this day.

We were four young Airmen camping in the Dolomite Mountains of Italy. The sky was clear, the air was clean and the river sped past us like a tumultuous liquid highway of doom. I sighed and stepped into the little yellow raft with Dennis and we pushed off. The girls looked at us in disapproval and sat down on the shore.

The river was swift, but smooth for a while. I even had time to take off my shirt and sandals and shoot some pictures. I almost laughed at how worried I was earlier, when suddenly I saw the rapids up ahead.

Water began to fill the raft as we were

smashed against rocks and tossed around like Poseidon’s playthings. I began to panic as the ice cold glacier runoff rose up to my chest. I thought my life would flash before my eyes, but instead I only saw how we failed to accomplish any type of operational risk management.

As we inflated the raft, we should have taken heed of the large warning printed on the side: Do not use in swift currents.

When I asked Dennis where the oars were and he presented two large sticks, I should have said, “What?”

When we tried to survey the river by driving past it on the highway, we should have noted that we lost sight of it for three miles.

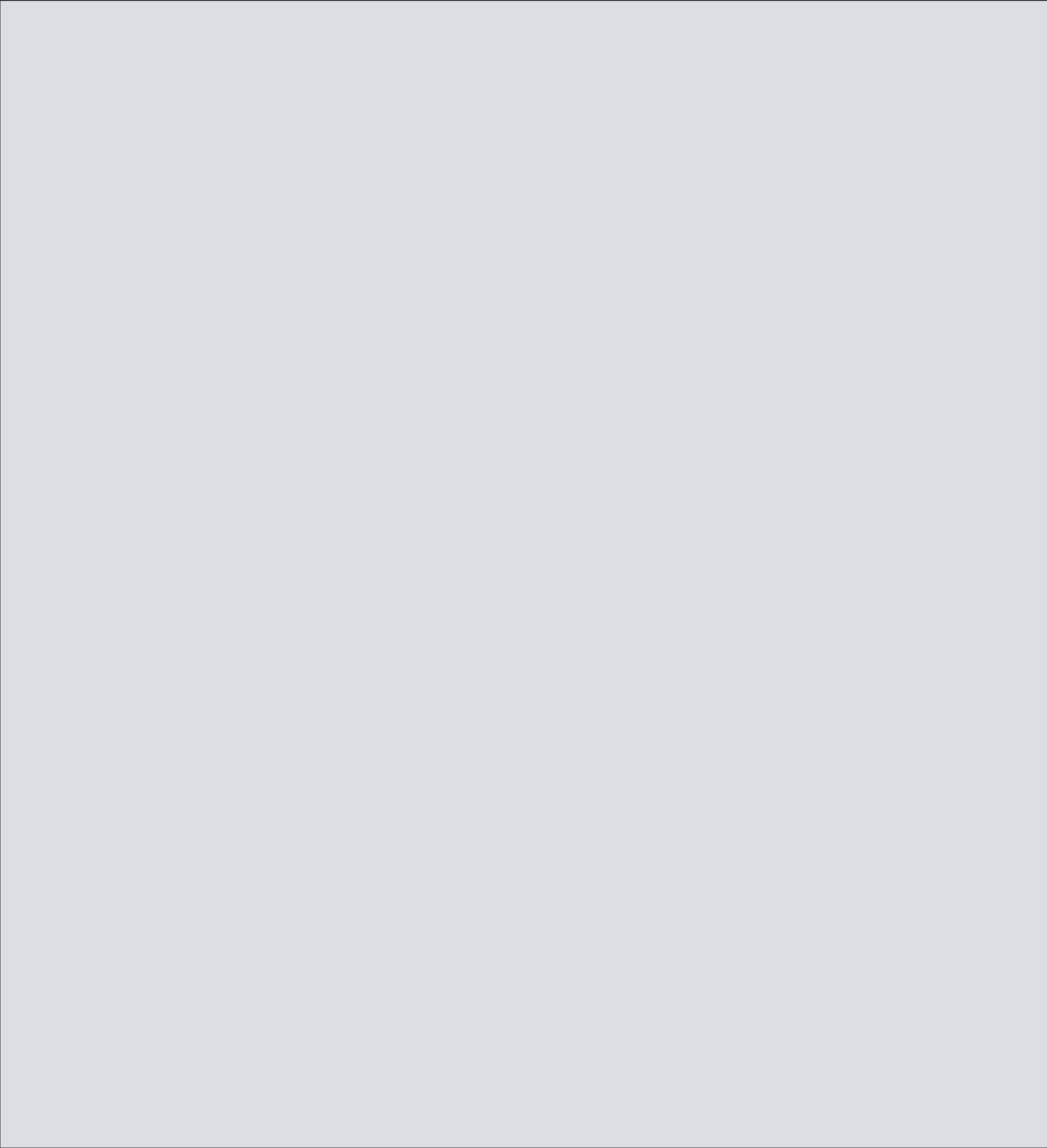
Before leaving Jill and Mitzi, we should have established a way to keep in contact.

And last, but not least, we should have untied the rope from the back of the raft.

I was snapped out of my daze by Dennis

● **SEE RIVER PAGE 21**







Lisa Norman

Lt. Col. (ret.) Bob Pardo climbs into the cockpit of an F-15 Eagle here Aug. 18.

Vietnam war hero visits Tyndall

CHRISSEY CUTTITA
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A hero spent two days with the 1st Fighter Squadron here and spoke to the Air Force’s future leaders at the Airman Leadership School Aug. 18 and 19.

“It was absolutely magnificent flying in the F-15,” said Lt. Col. (ret.) Bob Pardo. “It absolutely brings me back – the feel, the smell, the noise. It’s great to be back around it, hear it, feel it and touch it. And better than that is seeing the pride of the young men and women who get that airplane to fly and how they present it to the pilot.”

“Having the colonel here made us step back from our day to day and see why we are

really here,” said Maj. Conner Blackwood, 1st Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations.

During a speech to Airman Leadership School students, Colonel Pardo talked about leadership, particularly about a time when he felt it failed.

Faced with the danger of enemy MiG aircraft over North Vietnam in March 1967, Colonel Pardo and his four-ship team of American F-4 Phantom fighter pilots had to bail out of a bombing raid they were conducting before losing gas. Two members of the team left the scene to fuel up at a nearby

● SEE HERO PAGE 21

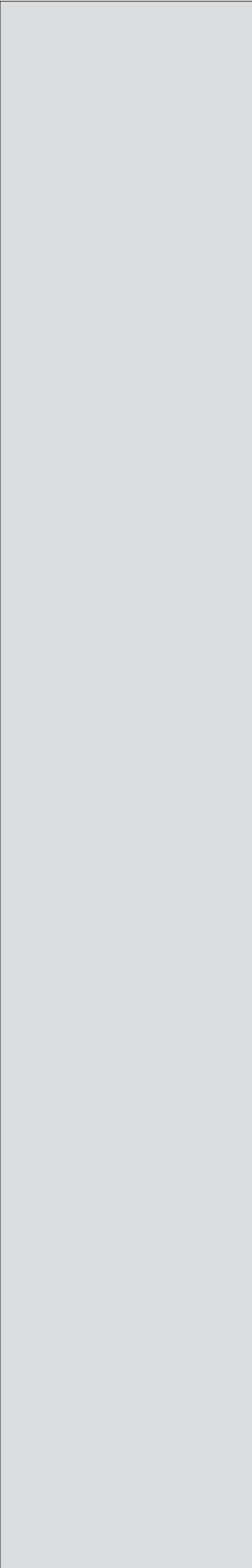
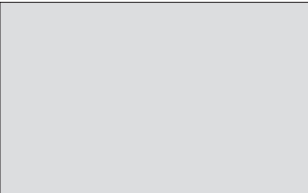
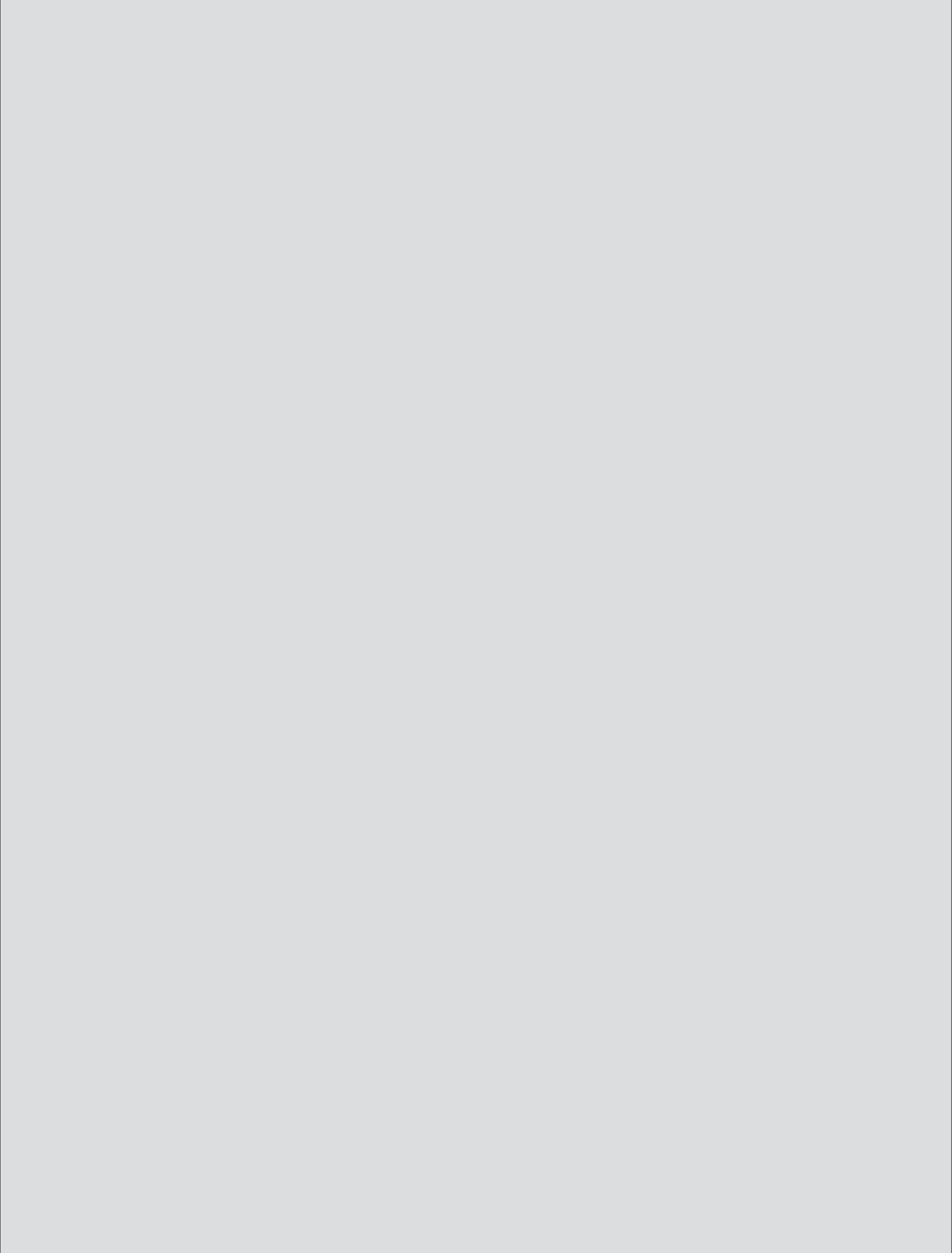
POW/MIA Recognition Day

There will be a 24-hour vigil beginning at 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at Flag Park. A luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. Sept. 16 at the Enlisted Club.

The guest speaker at the luncheon will be Army Sgt. James Riley, a former prisoner of war. Sergeant Riley was assigned to the 507th Maintenance Company from Fort Bliss, Texas. While deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, his convoy was ambushed and many were killed or captured.

Ticket sales will be conducted until Sept. 2. For tickets or more information, contact a unit first sergeant.





Servicemembers still smoking tobacco

SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The death of broadcasting icon Peter Jennings from lung cancer has again brought smoking and its dangers to the forefront of public consciousness.

Before his death, Mr. Jennings admitted he was a longtime smoker.

While an estimated 25 percent of Americans smoke, the military’s numbers hover at 34 percent, said Col. Gerald Wayne Talcott with the Air Force Medical Support Agency in Falls Church, Va.

That represents an increase of 4 percent for the military between 1998 and 2002, the time frame for the most recent data. According to the same data, 27 percent of the active-duty Air Force smokes, an increase of 1.3 percent between 1998 and 2002.

“We do have a higher prevalence of smoking for our youngest people in the military,” Colonel Talcott said. “Now, if you look at officers, that’s not the case. But for our youngest members, that’s our E-1s through E-4s ... the overall prevalence is a little bit higher than the national average.

“It’s a good suspicion” that the war is

a factor in the increase of military smokers, he said.

Servicemembers who smoke often claim it is a stress reliever. Colonel Talcott said that might be true, but only for people who already are addicted. Before addiction occurs, smoking actually increases stress on the body, he said.

Smokers may see their habit as a personal risk, but many may not realize it affects force readiness, Colonel Talcott said. Even among smokers who have no ongoing diseases related to smoking, it impairs night vision, weakens the immune system and can lengthen healing time. Smokers also may have more frequent upper-respiratory ailments.

Tobacco use also affects families, the colonel said.

“We have a lot of young people (who) are just starting families,” Colonel Talcott said. “It has an impact on those young children as well. If you’re smoking around them, their risk for upper-respiratory infections goes up as well.”

Smoking is a deceptive risk for younger people, since they do not necessarily feel the immediate ramifications. But, if a smoker quits, as more than 50 percent of Defense Department people

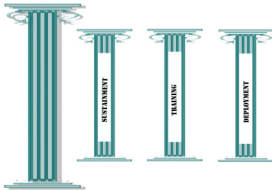
who smoke have expressed a desire to do, there are benefits to be reaped.

“Your body has a very recuperative ability,” Colonel Talcott said. “We have a very young population, so the sooner you quit and the less amount of time you smoke, the faster your body repairs itself. Within 10 to 15 years (of quitting smoking) your risk for cancer, if you quit early enough is almost the same as it would be for a nonsmoker.”

Servicemembers have multiple excuses for not quitting. The fear of failure or a failed first attempt often keeps smokers from trying to quit again, Colonel Talcott said. However, he said a failure does not mean that a second, or even a third, attempt is going to fail.

Help is available for those who wish to quit but think they need help. Most base health and wellness centers offer smoking cessation classes, and nicotine-replacement therapies are available.

FORCE PROTECTION



Force protection begins with personal security

MAJ. SUSAN A. ROMANO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Here's the scenario: A shadowy figure has begun stalking an Airman stationed at Tyndall AFB. He slowly, patiently and methodically tracks the Airman's daily routine. He annotates the time the Airman leaves his house every day for work; he observes his lunchtime breaks; he lays in wait for him to travel off the base at the end of the work day.

From a distance he trails him to the dry cleaners outside the gate, his quick stop to a convenience store, and back to his downtown residence. The Airman gets out of his car, locks his vehicle and retires for the night.

Little does the Airman realize he's being followed each and every day – until one morning he prepares to leave for work and finds his car stolen. The Airman immedi-

ately calls the local police, his first sergeant and the base law enforcement desk. He calls his insurance company to report the theft. He does everything right with reporting the theft.

But what was his costly – and potentially deadly – mistake? He left his military identification card, his dry cleaning, his restricted area badge and other identification in his vehicle.

Seem far-fetched? Some might have thought that prior to Sept. 11, 2001, but in the world we live now, nothing is impossible, and it is the responsibility of everyone in the Department of Defense to take personal security very seriously.

This far-fetched scenario would have allowed this 'shadowy figure' to use the uniforms and the ID cars to gain access to our base – or any base – and wreak havoc in countless ways.

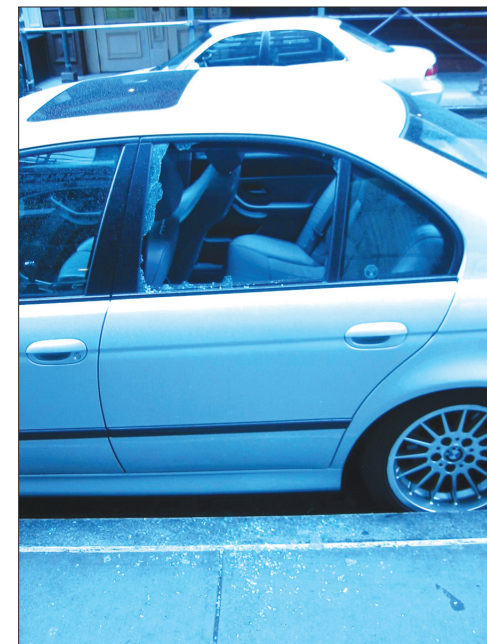
So how could this mistake have been avoided? Simple ... never, ever leave your personal identification in your vehicle. By virtue of being in the military, you are an automatic target, regardless of if you're stationed in New York City or Panama City. The 'bad guys' want to get their hands on anything that will give them more information and more access to what we do for a living, so don't make it easy for them by

leaving your IDs in your vehicle or any other easily-accessible location. Treat your military ID and/or restricted area badge as if they were thousand dollar bills. You wouldn't leave that kind of money on the seat of your car for all to see (and steal), so don't do it with your IDs.

If possible, vary your daily routine. Take a different street or route to work; be inconsistent with where you go for lunch; don't leave your uniforms in your vehicle for long length of time. It is everyone's responsibility to take operational and personal security seriously.

Here are some other crime prevention safety tips, courtesy of the 325th Security Forces Squadron:

- Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep your doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking garages and large parking lots. Park near an entrance.
- Don't hide house or car keys in mailboxes, planters or under door mats. Burglars will look their first! Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a neighbor or friend.
- Ask for photo ID from service or delivery people before letting them into your home. If you are the least bit concerned, call the company to verify their employment.
- Never give your credit card, social security or bank account number to any-



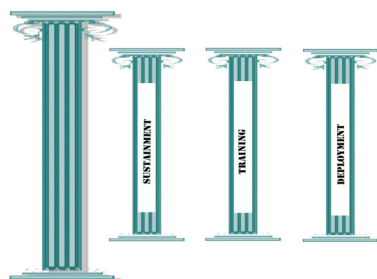
Kat Kotrla

one over the phone. It is illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or a gift.

- Don't carry credit cards in your wallet that you don't need, and don't carry large amounts of cash.

It is critical to report any crime or suspicious activities to local law enforcement or to the 325th SFS Control Center at 283-2254. Callers can remain anonymous by calling the base hotline at 283-TIPS (8477).

FORCE PROTECTION



Tyndall's CS reengineers, moves functions to AETC

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 325th Communications Squadron is scheduled to relocate nearly half its network control center functions and about a third of its people beginning Thursday to the Air Education and Training Command headquarters at Randolph AFB, Texas.

The move is in response to an Air Force-wide initiative to consolidate network operations as much as possible to more efficiently and effectively manage the computer systems and customer support, said Lt. Col. Curtis Frost, 325th CS commander.

"There may be a few glitches in the road as we go through the transition, but the average person on Tyndall shouldn't even know that this reengineering has occurred," he said. "They should still get consistent, outstanding support whenever they have a computer or network problem."

The difference will be behind the scenes, said Randy Coleman, AETC NCC reengineering program manager.

"The one area that people may notice a difference is after-duty-hour calls to the Tyndall help desk, which will be routed automatically to a technician at the Network Operations and Security Center help desk at Randolph AFB," Mr. Coleman said. "Our promise to the bases is that the NOSC

will provide a level of service equal to or better than what the NCC is providing today."

Although many of the squadron members will be moving to Randolph to work at the NOSC, they'll still be managing the Tyndall accounts, which benefits the customers, said Colonel Frost.

"They know our network, they know how it works, and they're the ones who will actually be doing the hands-on managing of our network from far away," the colonel said.

By reducing the number of personnel needed to run the network systems and consolidating the various systems into one, the squadron and the NOSC can make better use of the resources and people they already have, said Mr. Coleman.

"One of the key benefits is having a centralized pool of technical expertise available at the NOSC to support all bases," Mr. Coleman said.

"You don't need as many people to run (the network) when you have consolidated services in a single location," Colonel Frost said. "And if it's all the same equipment across the entire command, people will need only to be trained on one system versus five or six."

"With better trained people and fewer different systems, problems may get resolved faster in the future, and it may save money in the long run," the colonel said.



2nd Lt. Betsy Scott

Airman 1st Class Avery Walker, 325th Communications Squadron customer service technician, helps a customer who called into the Tyndall help desk Wednesday.

SFS joins campaign against drunk driving

With more people expected to be traveling on Florida roadways this Labor Day holiday, law enforcement will be out in full force conducting the annual *"YOU DRINK & DRIVE. YOU LOSE"* campaign. This event will be the largest national advertising campaign to highlight law enforcement efforts against drinking and driving.

The 325th Security Forces Squadron announced it plans to participate for the fourth consecutive year in *You Drink & Drive. You Lose*. The nationwide crackdown commenced Aug. 19 and will last until Sept. 5. This is the second campaign since all 50 states and the District of Columbia have enacted a .08 blood alcohol content (BAC) limit law for impaired driving. Uniform BAC laws strengthen the hand of law enforcement agencies in the arrest and prosecution of dangerous drunk drivers to fullest extent of the law. Additionally, the crackdown will take place during the

Labor Day holiday period with the intention of targeting the end-of-summer impaired driving offenders.

Statistics compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for 2003 show that more than 13,000 people died in highway crashes involving a driver with an illegal blood-alcohol concentration level of .08 or higher.

"You can be sure that base entry controllers, checkpoints and mobile patrols will be out in force, said Tech. Sgt. Alijhondroe Wiley, 325th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of police services. "Chances are extremely good that if you drive impaired this Labor Day, you will get caught. Refuse a sobriety test and you can lose your license on the spot and have your car impounded."

"Don't turn your holiday into a jail stay," continued Sergeant Wiley. "Working in the community brings you closer to the people you serve. I see up close and personal when a

family is torn apart by a tragedy such as drunk driving. The message is clear – *'You Drink & Drive. You Lose.'*"

The 325th SFS reminds everyone:

- Be responsible and don't take unnecessary risks ... you will be caught.

- If you plan on drinking, choose a designated driver before going out or use the resources available, for instance Airman Against Drunk Driving.

- Take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a sober friend to drive you home.

- Spend the night where the activity is held alleviating the need to drive home.

- Immediately report, when safe to do so, impaired drivers to law enforcement agencies.

- Always buckle up – it's your best defense against an impaired driver.

(Courtesy of 325th Security Forces Squadron)

Did you know ...

For those planning on moving off-base in the near future or who have a new civilian spouse, the military has created a Web site dedicated to family support operations. Here can be found helpful checklists, financial tools, and the most current copy of the spouses' Heart Link Handbook. There are also links to any active Family Support Center Web page from this site for additional resources offered through Family Support. For more information, go to www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/famops/.



Checkertail Salute

Staff Sgt. Jamilah Nailor



Steve Wallace

Sergeant Nailor receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Nailor, 325th Medical Support Squadron. She tracked 250 timesheets for the 325th Medical Group, providing accurate reporting data. She processed a \$65,000 furniture package submitted for the Referral Management Office. Sergeant Nailor is also an active member of Focus 56. She was a key organizer of a staff sergeant promotion party.

Duty title: Medical Expense Performance Reporting System NCO in charge

Time on station: Five months

Time in service: Five years

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colo.

Hobbies: Working out, watching movies, listening to music

Favorite movie: "The Color Purple"

Pet Peeves: Gossip

Favorite thing about Tyndall: The squadron I work in

Proudest moment in the military: Making staff sergeant my first time testing

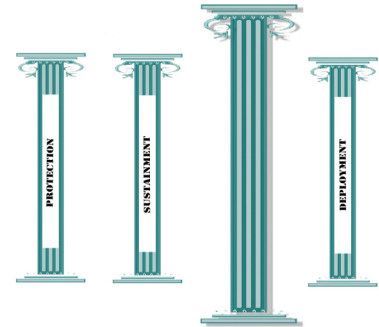
The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman 1st Class Darnell Williams, 325th Communications Squadron project manager.



PEOPLE FIRST


FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

How will your training here help you in your new position as an F-15 Eagle intelligence operator?

“It will help me to better understand what the F-15 pilots are talking about, which will allow me to create better intelligence reports.”



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
DAVID DEHAAN
325th Operations Support Squadron
Intelligence Flight Training Unit student

Colder than ice: MRA students take on LOX

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

What’s highly flammable, potentially explosive, so cold that it actually boils, yet without it aircrews couldn’t survive in high altitudes?

Student crew chiefs training here discovered the answer to be liquid oxygen during their initial LOX training Aug. 15.

“Liquid oxygen is a liquefied form of oxygen that we put into special containers on the F-15 Eagles (and other aircraft),” said

Tech. Sgt. Phillip Pittman, 372nd Training Squadron/ Detachment 4 instructor. “As the liquid evaporates, it turns into gaseous oxygen, which supplies breathing oxygen to aircrews during flight.”

But despite its life-sustaining capabilities, the oxygen in its liquid form is extremely dangerous, Sergeant Pittman said.

“It’s 297 degrees below zero, so if it touches your skin at all it’s like instantaneous frostbite,” he said.

In addition to the extreme temperature of the liquid oxygen, it has the potential to explode if mixed with any foreign substance such as oil.

“That’s why we wear special suits for LOX only. If there is any oil on the crew chief’s uniform, it could become explosive if they aren’t wearing the suit,” Sergeant Pittman said.

Fortunately, the students receive plenty of guidance and support during their initial introduction to LOX, he said.

“We show them how to service (the LOX containers), let them practice a couple times, then certify them on it. It’s part of their training here. They have to learn how to do it,” he said.

But each time students handle LOX for the first time, both the students and the instructors are a little nervous, said the sergeant.

“Instructors and other crew chiefs who have been in a long time have gone over this stuff so many times over the years that it gets repetitious with us,” Sergeant Pittman said. “But if you forget to mention one thing when instructing students, that’s the one thing they’re going to do wrong. I get nervous every time they service LOX.”

“It was a little scary but exciting at the same time,” said Airman Basic Sensy Lacen, 372nd TRS/Det. 4 Mission Ready Airman student. “I know they wouldn’t tell me to do something unless it was safe, so I wasn’t really that afraid.”

For another student, it was an exciting way to wrap up his four-week-long training course here, and a great way to begin his Air Force career as a crew chief.

“I think (the training here) is awesome,” said Airman 1st Class Brandon Rhodes, 372nd TRS/Det. 4 MRA student. “I always wanted to be an aircraft mechanic and just being here learning from these great instructors is awesome. I love it.”



Airman Basic Brandon Beatty, 372nd Training Squadron/ Detachment 4 Mission Ready Airman student, practices servicing a liquid oxygen container Aug. 15.



Screened calls

Second Lt. Andy Rupert, 325th Air Control Squadron Air Battle Manager student, gets in some practice time on the scopes. ABM students go through 160 days of training here, learning to control air war from airborne platforms.

Air Battle Manager student progress chart

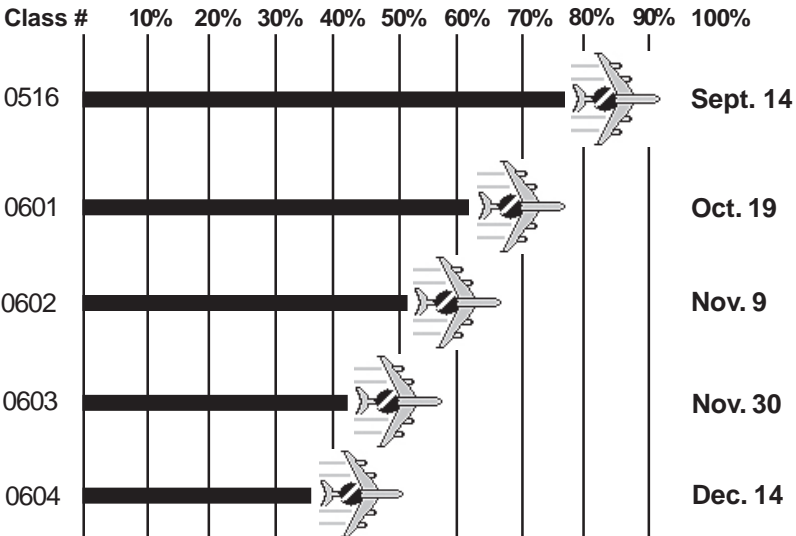




Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

TECH. SGT. DAN NEELY

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Like alligators, raccoons and snakes, most Tyndall AFB people accept the fact that mosquitoes are a normal part of the Florida panhandle ecosystem.

But when spring and summer rains hit surplus levels, those same mosquitoes seem to breed, buzz and bite their way to the top

of the local food chain.

Lately this appears to be the case here, and base officials have had to respond by escalating the already ongoing seasonal war against these potentially disease-spreading insect pests.

"I have been here at Tyndall since October '97, and this is probably the largest population of mosquitoes I have seen," said

Bob Bushway, a pest control supervisor with 325th Civil Engineer Squadron contractor Del-Jen.

Mr. Bushway's shop, along with the 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Public Health Flight staff, are key warfighters in all of Tyndall's man vs. mosquito conflicts. And the attacking mosquito hordes are a diverse threat, to say the least. One type is known to spread the much-publicized West Nile virus.

"Public Health has identified 26 different mosquito species on Tyndall AFB over the last three years," said Capt. Chad Claar, Public Health Flight commander. "The type of mosquito that causes the greatest amount of West Nile virus spread is the genus Culex. We have identified five different species of Culex on Tyndall."

Fortunately the disease is rare, he noted. Just two confirmed cases have been reported in Florida this year. And while he said the disease can be fatal to those with weakened immune systems, mild infections are actually much more common. About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness, up to 20 percent will have mild symptoms that are often mistaken as a flu and about 80 percent of people infected with WNV will not show any symptoms at all, said Captain Claar.

"There are several types of mosquito species that target man and are more aggressive than other mosquitoes, such as Aedes albopictus," the captain said. "These mosquitoes are also on Tyndall and are often the aggressive ones invading buildings."

Many at Tyndall will vouch for the aggressive nature of the latest mosquito onslaught.

"It's very bad," said Airman 1st Class James Cunningham, 325th Mission Support Squadron commander's support staff. "I live in the dorms, and as soon as you go outside the mosquitoes follow you to your car. The last time I counted at least 10 to 15 mosquitoes on me at once."

So, when did the Public Health staff realize the base faced a serious problem?

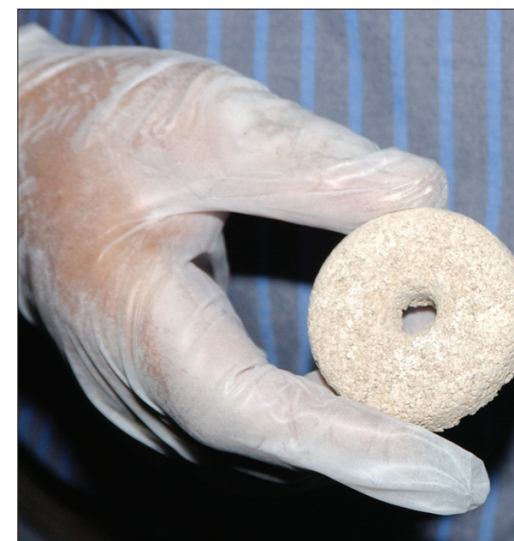
"When we had the two-week period of almost daily, heavy rains we knew the mosquito problem was going to flourish," said Captain Claar. "That was confirmed (Aug. 8) when PH and Entomology were receiving large numbers of phone calls, and we were seeing mosquitoes in buildings and in heavy numbers outdoors."

One of the first steps in assessing the



Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely

Staff Sgt. Alexander Mosquera-Melo, 325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron Public Health technician, sets up a U.S. Army miniature light trap near water on the base. The device features a light and a carbon dioxide emitter to attract and trap adult mosquitoes. Whenever at least 25 female mosquitoes are found in a single trap, Public Health immediately contacts base pest controllers to request immediate pesticide spraying.



The pest controllers here use various traps in standing water and kill mosquito larvae.

severity of the situation involves gathering information directly from the environment. Captain Claar said the PH technicians do this by setting mosquito traps throughout the base.

"This will give us information on the types of mosquitoes present and their abundance," he said.

The captain added that heavy rainfall throughout much of this summer unfortunately has set up an ideal mosquito breeding environment.

"The eggs of some mosquito species can last three to five years until flooding occurs," he explained. "Mosquitoes usually lay their eggs on a surface that is slightly above an existing water line or in an area prone to flooding. When the eggs get wet they hatch.

Mosquitoes thrive when temperatures are constantly above 60 degrees and water is present."

According to data compiled by the 325th Operations Squadron Weather Flight, June rainfall was more than double the month's annual average. And the most recent spate of heavy thundershowers has pushed precipitation during the first two weeks of August to 4.29 inches, a fast start for a month that averages 6.98 inches.

According to Mr. Bushway, once Public Health finds a trap with at least 25 female mosquitoes – females do all the biting — that is the trigger level that indicates immediate measures must be taken to help control their numbers.

As in other Florida communities, that means spraying. And at Tyndall, the mosquito population was high enough to require the addition of a second shift to the pest controllers' normal spraying schedule.

The local weapon of choice is Masterline Kontrol, a permethrin and pip-

eronyl butoxide-based pesticide. According to Captain Claar, it is in one of six classes of insecticides with EPA approval for ground aerosol applications. The pesticide works by paralyzing the mosquito's nervous system. It also kills two other well-known biting pests here – black flies and gnats.

"This pesticide has low toxicity to humans and animals," the captain said. "Permethrin is also used to spray clothing and other materials to repel mosquitoes, black flies and ticks. Personnel who deploy to high threat areas use permethrin to treat their uniforms.

"People should avoid direct contact with the mist when the aerosols are being sprayed by the fogger," Captain Claar continued. "The droplets are dispersed swiftly and quickly held close to the ground. The spraying is conducted in the early morning (5-9 a.m.) and in the evening (7-11 p.m.) in order to facilitate the droplets being held close to the ground and to avoid thermal currents."

Pest controllers use trailer-towed or pickup truck-mounted 18-horsepower chemical foggers as they drive throughout wide areas of the base. Their route includes family housing, the support and operations sides of the base, as well as the outlying areas of Silver Flag, Air Force Research Laboratory and Sky 10. Pest controllers will spray roughly 30 gallons of the chemical per day.

For areas that are accessible and where long-term standing water creates mosquito breeding ponds, they also use a solid form of biological briquettes for larvaciding to kill the insects in their immature larval stage – before they can mature to the flying and biting adults. The emerging adults can fly more than five miles from their breeding grounds in search of a human or animal host.

"Our larvaciding program is the first line of defense in the Mosquito Control Program and usually produces excellent results during normal weather conditions," he said.

During the spraying times, one might assume pest control vehicles would be an unwelcome sight to pedestrian passersby. But the severity of the latest mosquito onslaught apparently has changed more than a few hearts and minds.

"During normal times, we're getting (complaints like) 'Why are you guys messing up my barbecue, or spraying near our kids?' Now we're actually getting thumbs up and pats on the back,"



2nd Lt. William Powell

Richard Loberger, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron pest controller, fills the chemical fogger with pesticides in the early morning before heading out to spray for mosquitoes and other airborne pests. He and other pest controllers have been travelling throughout the base twice a day during dawn and dusk hours, which tends to be when the heaviest populations of mosquitoes are active.

Mr. Bushway said. "We don't just put out chemicals to put out chemicals. Public Health, through their trapping results, will notify us where the problem areas are and we will then precede to initiate our fogging

schedule. We have found that mosquito fogging in the early morning hours produces the best results, not only for the control but also less bothersome for the base population."

Quick tips to protect yourself from mosquitoes

- Mosquitoes are most prevalent around standing water and most active during dawn and dusk hours.
- Remove any sources of standing water in pet dishes, flower pots, old tires or rain gutters every couple of days to remove mosquito larvae.
- Empty unused wading pools, flush every other day or use chlorination.
- Keep grass mowed and check tire tracks and under outside faucets.
- Use insect repellent containing up to 30 percent DEET before going into high-risk areas or when outside during high-risk times.
- Apply repellent to exposed areas of the body as well as to your clothing.
- Do not allow repellent to get in your eyes, mouth or nose.
- Do not use DEET on children less than 2 months old; instead, infants should be kept indoors or cover baby carriers with a mosquito net.
- When in high-risk locations or during high-risk times, do not wear perfumed soaps, sprays or other sweet smelling formulas that might attract mosquitoes.
- Wear long pants, long-sleeve shirt, shoes and socks in high-risk locations or during high-risk times. Mosquitoes can bite through T-shirts and other lightweight, tight-fitting clothing.
- Extra care should be taken with children under age 5, adults over age 55 and those with weakened immune systems due to chronic illness. Those populations are at greater risk from mosquito-borne diseases and should take precautions to avoid them.



Bibor Gabor



2nd Lt. William Powell

Types of long-lasting 'dunks' that dissolve to kill mosquito larvae.

Briefs

Retiree Appreciation Days change

Retiree Appreciation Days will now be held Nov. 4 and 5. All retirees are invited to attend. For more information on events and activities going on that day, call the Retiree Activities Office at 283-2737.

VA Audiology Clinic

Tyndall's Veterans Affairs Audiology Clinic has relocated to the VA Outpatient Clinic at 312 Kenmore Road, Pensacola. For more information, call (850) 417-7574 or 1-800-897-8977 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Munitions Storage Area closure

The Munitions Storage Area will be closed to all customers from Sept. 12 - 16 due to a 100 percent closed warehouse inventory. All munitions customers should project their needs accordingly and plan ahead for this closure. Only valid emergency issues will be processed during this period. For more information, call munitions accountability at 283-4010 or 283-2374.

World War II lithographs

The 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office has lithographs commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII. Units that would like copies may send a representative to the PA office in Bldg. 662, Room 129. The lithographs are for official use only and must be framed for proper display.

Online pharmacies

The Office of the Surgeon General has stated that the use of online physician and pharmacy services is highly discouraged, due to the risk of complications resulting from obtaining medication without a proper medical exam, the lack of quality control on prescription medications and the inability of these services to check for interactions with patients other current medications. For more information, contact the Tricare Operations and Patient Administration Flight at 283-7331.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Chapter 553, meets the third Wednesday of every month at 3 p.m. in the Enlisted Club. AFSA is the Air Force en-



Steve Wallace

Warrior's handshake

Maj. Jason Smith, left, and Senior Airman Andre Grant, both with the 325th Operations Support Squadron, speak with Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton at the Warrior Farewell party at Enlisted Club ballroom Monday. The event was a send-off for Tyndall Airmen who are deploying in September and October. There will be a Warrior Farewell every two months.

listed organization dedicated to the people behind the stripes. It is open to all enlisted ranks. For more information on AFSA, contact Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Benison at 283-2891.

Sexual assault reporting

The DOD is committed to ensuring safety and dignity. As part of that endeavor, people may now report allegations of sexual assault to specified personnel without triggering an investigation or involving their chain of command. This confidential reporting must be made to the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, a health care provider, a trained Victim Advocate, or a chaplain. Tyndall's Response Line, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is 625-1231. For more information on sexual assault, call Tyndall's Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 283-8192 or visit the United States DOD Sexual Assault and Response home page at www.sapr.mil.

Tricare Reserve Select

Eligibility to purchase Tricare Reserve Select coverage is determined by the Reserve component member's service/Reserve component office. To qualify, members must have served on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, for 90 consecutive days or more in support of a contingency operation and enter into an agreement with their Reserve component to serve in the selected Reserve for one or more years prior to leaving active duty. For Reserve component

members who are eligible and have already left active duty, they have until Oct. 28 to complete their service agreement. Details about completing service agreements and enrollment process for TRS are available on the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect.

Coach and officials needed

Tyndall's women's varsity basketball team is in need of a coach. Also, the upcoming Tyndall intramural sports season needs officials. Those interested should call the Fitness Center at 283-2631.

Airman's Attic

Family Services and the Airman's Attic are open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday in Bldg. 747. The Airman's Attic is designed to help reduce some cost of living expenses by providing donated household items or new items purchased with cash donations to eligible military members. The generosity of Team Tyndall has allowed the staff to extend this service from senior airman and below to staff sergeant and below. Call the Family Services office at 283-4913 or the Family Support Center at 283-4204 for more information.

Thrift Shop hours

Thrift Shop hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday. Consignments are 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call 286-5888.

**Catholic services**

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation, before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

Muslim services

Dhuhr Prayer, Monday-Thursday, Spiritual Maintenance building near the flightline
Jumauh services, 12:30 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month, Spiritual Maintenance building near flightline

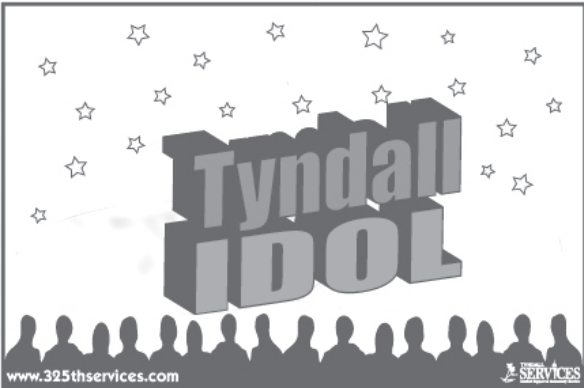
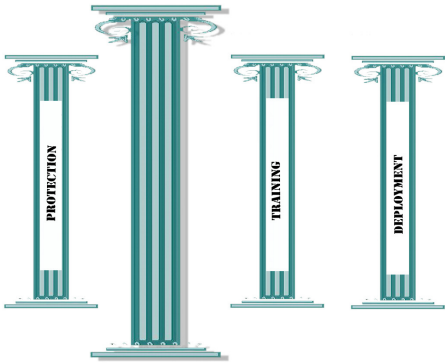


Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek

Behind enemy lines

David Kelley, center, 325th Air Control Squadron quarterback, tries to break through the 325th Comptroller Squadron’s defense, Jerry Hernandez, left, Robert Griffin and Chris Donovan, during the first intramural flag football game of the season. The 325th ACS won the match-up 48 – 7. For more information on this season’s football schedule, call the Tyndall Fitness Center at 283-2631.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



The finalists are:

- Jessica Brooks,
325th OSS
- Allison Helder,
NCOA
- Derrick Moore,
325th SFS
- Gina Poe,
325th FW
- Erin Reynolds,
325th ACS
- Craig Smith,
NCOA

The finalists will be competing for the last time 6 p.m. tonight at the Zone in the Enlisted Club. All are welcome to attend to see who will become the first Tyndall Idol.

Intramural Sports Standings

Football

American			
Team	W	L	Tie
43rd AMU	2	0	0
OSS	1	0	0
AFCESA	1	1	0
MXS	0	1	1
1st AMU	0	0	0
53rd WEG	0	0	0
83rd FWS	0	0	0
CPTS	0	2	0



National

Team	W	L	Tie
601st EAOG	1	0	0
ACS	1	0	0
CES	2	1	0
TEST	0	0	1
SFS	0	0	0
SVS	0	0	0
MDG	0	1	0
CONS	0	1	0
COMM	0	1	0



Golf



Team	Points
CES	59.5
AMXS	51
372nd TRS	48
AFCESA	47.5
CS1	43.5
601st EAOG	42
MSS	40
OSS	38.5
SVS	34
CONR1	32
53rd WEG	28.5
RHS	26
MXS	26
ACS	25.5
CONR2	23
CS2	18

AF Clubs to give cash back to members

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron

A new Air Force Club card program will soon be putting a little cash right back in members' pockets.

The Military Free Cash program will begin Sept. 1, the same day that kicks off this year's annual Air Force Club membership drive campaign, for all club card users. It gives two points for every \$1 put on the club card in Services facilities, base Exchanges (except gas – that earns one point) and base commissaries through March 2006.

The new program runs at the same time as the Travel Rewards Program, but card holders cannot be in both programs at the same time. Also, points earned in one program cannot be transferred to the other, and it is

recommended that users redeem points before dropping one program and enrolling to the other.

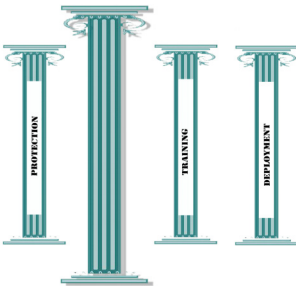
The Travel Rewards program was introduced about a year ago, and allows club members, for \$29 a year, to earn points when they use their club cards. These points can be redeemed for airline travel, hotel reservations, rental cars, etc. There are no blackout dates involved with the Travel Rewards Program and it is not associated with any specific airline, but air travel must be booked at least 21 days in advance.

Along with the two-points-for-every-dollar deal offered in the Military Free Cash program, card users also earn one point per \$1 on every card purchase made off base. There is a maximum accumulation of points of

60,000 and points expire 24 months after they were earned. There is no annual fee for this program, and membership is automatically renewed.

When cardholders reach 2,500 points, they can redeem them for \$25 cash or gift cards from a variety of businesses and restaurants. For more information, contact the Tyndall Officers' Club at 283-4357.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT

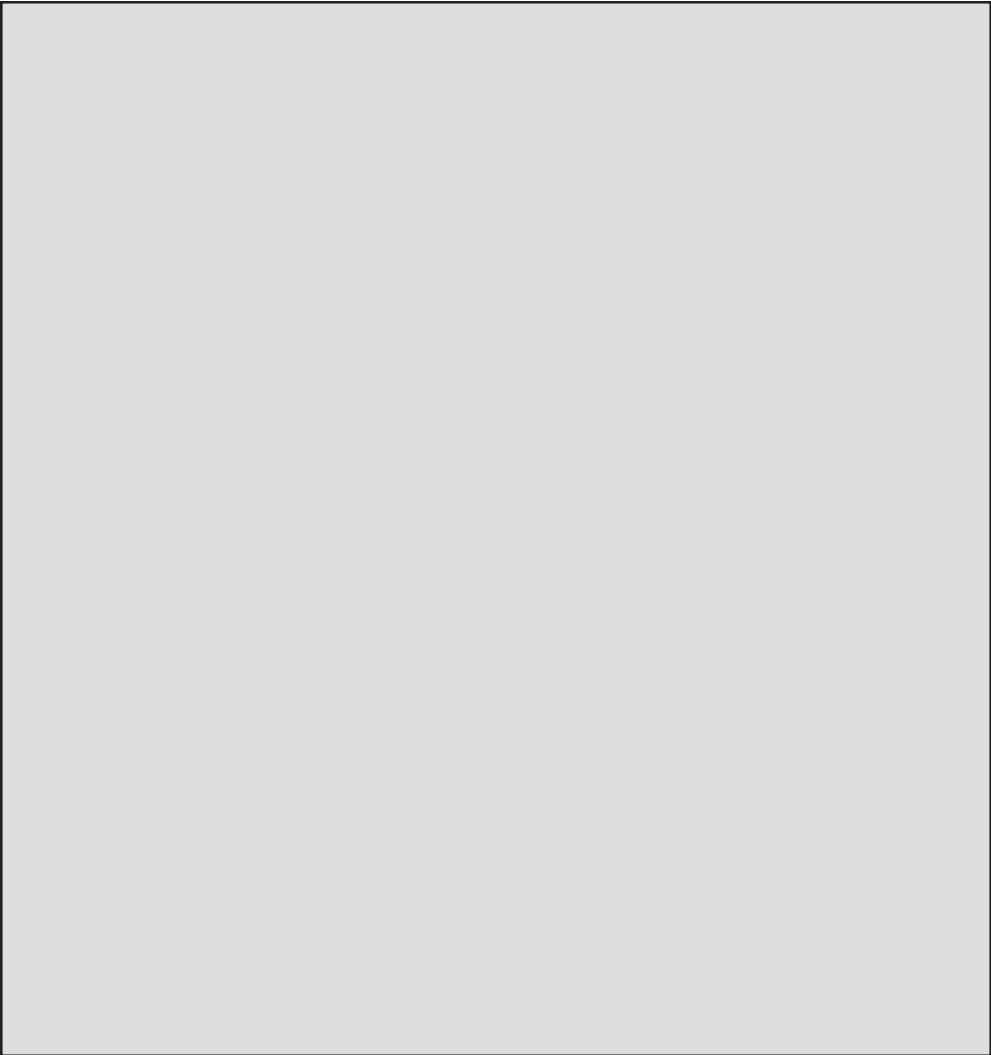
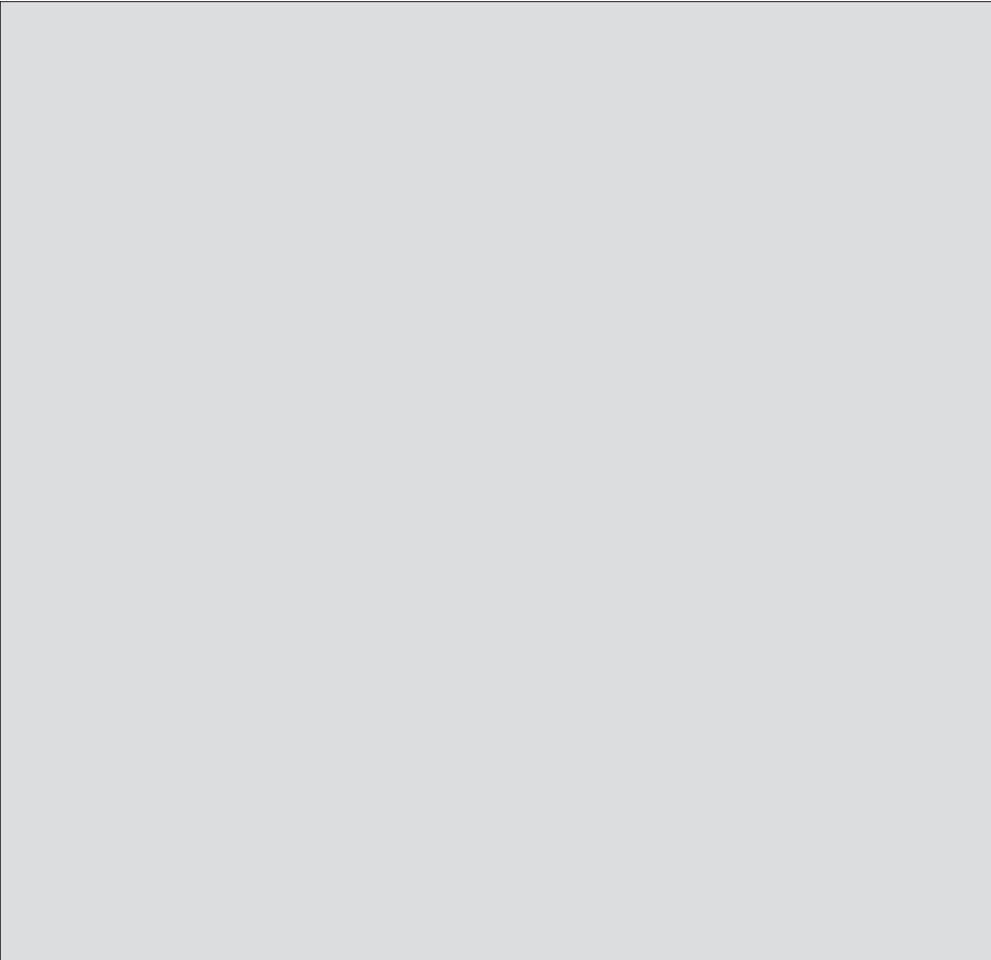


Can you beat the Pigskin Prognosticator?

The National Football League is soon beginning its 2005 season. Do you think you can outsmart the Pig-Prog by picking each week's winners? Watch for the Pig-Prog challenge coming soon only in the *Gulf Defender*. Maybe you'll get a chance to lose to the greatest football forecaster of them all.



“I AM AN AIRMAN AND A WINGMAN TO ALL OTHER AIRMEN. ”



Hydroplaning is real hazard

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Gulf Coast’s infamous summer storms not only affect the sky above Tyndall, they can also make driving on the roads more dangerous.

One cause of accidents during a heavy rain is hydroplaning. Hydroplaning is when tire treads cannot channel out water, thus causing the tire to lose traction, according to online sources. When this happens, tires are riding on the water, not the roadway.

“Anytime you get high water on the road, there’s a potential for hydroplaning,” said Ken Jolley, 325th Fighter Wing chief of safety. “Only a half an inch can do it.”

Places to watch out for high water on base include Beacon Beach Road, Sabre Drive, Suwannee Road and East Highway 98, said Tech. Sgt. Alijhondroe Wiley, 325th Security Forces Squadron NCO in charge of police services.

If driving off-base during a heavy down-pour, people should be careful in areas such as the Highway 77-23rd Street intersection and Beach Drive, said Neil Fravel, Panama City public works director.

“There are some huge ruts in 15th Street which can become pools as soon as it rains,” said Mr. Fravel. “State roads have high traf-

fic, which causes problems with pavement.”

However, it’s not just the roadways that can cause hydroplaning problems. The speed, weight and configuration of the vehicle, and the tire width and tread can all play a part in hydroplaning, said Mr. Jolley.

“Generally speaking, a bald, wide tire is worse than a bald, narrow tire,” he said. “A car with a rear engine and a light front end is worse than a conventional car.”

One way to check tire depth is by sticking a penny into the treads. The top of President Lincoln’s head should enter the tread, indicating about 1/16 of an inch of tread. Keeping a deep tread pattern on a vehicle’s tires allows the water on the roadway to escape.

Vehicle maintenance may be an important factor in avoiding hydroplaning, but one of the best ways to stay safe driving in the rain is by following the speed limit.

“Slow down when driving in the rain,” said Sergeant Wiley. “Go the posted speed limit or 5 mph under.”

If the rain gets so bad you can’t see, pull off to the side of the road out of traffic, turn on the hazard lights and wait until it is safe to proceed, said Sergeant Wiley.

“If you see any potential flooding or hazards on base roads, call security forces at 283-2254,” he said.



Children’s safety takes community effort

SHERI WARD

325th Medical Operations Squadron

Going back to school is not just about reading, writing, and arithmetic. Teaching our children personal safety is also critical, especially with school buses back on the road.

This is not just a family or school responsibility; as part of our community, everyone has a responsibility to keep children safe. Parents whose children walk to school or to the bus stop can do a few things to ensure their safety.

Parents should take the time to know what route their child takes to school or to the bus stop. Children should walk with a friend or the parents should take them themselves. It is important that children know to walk on sidewalks or in single file on the side of the road and stand at least five steps from the road as the bus approaches.

Also, children should learn not to board the bus until the bus is stopped and the driver says it’s OK to get in. When they are departing the bus, they should cross the street in front of the bus where the bus driver can see them and they can see the bus driver. If they drop something they should not pick it up until they tell the bus driver; otherwise, the bus driver may not see them. Most importantly, parents should teach children not

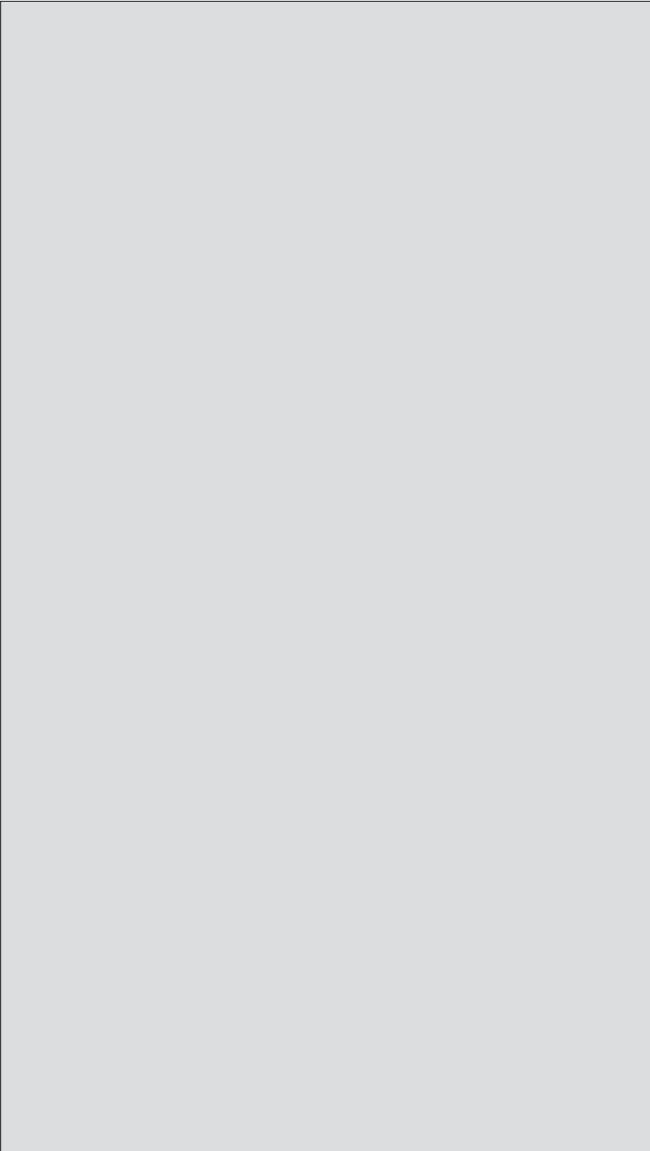
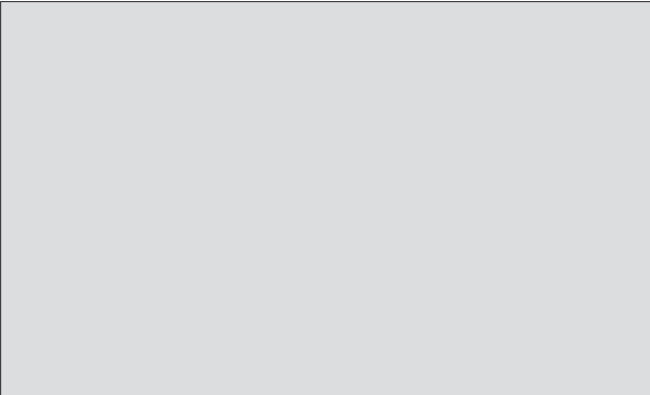
to talk to strangers or get into strange cars.


As a community, everyone should be aware of buses loading and unloading while driving and stop when the bus stops to pick up children. Drivers should be sure to pay attention to children walking along the street because they may not be paying attention to traffic.

Safety at school starts with parents instructing children to never leave school with anyone unless both the child and the adult check with the school office first. Parents and children should develop a secret password to be used in emergencies if someone other than mom or dad is going to pick them up. The school should always be informed in writing when there is a change in a child’s schedule (like getting picked up early) or when having someone else pick them up.

After-school safety education is also critical to ensure a child’s safety. Most bases have a “home-alone” policy; since each base is different, it is imperative parents know their responsibilities. A list of emergency phone numbers should be available by the phone, such as fire, police, a neighbor or two, as well as mom and dad’s work and cell phone numbers.

If the community works together, the children can start and end the school year safely.




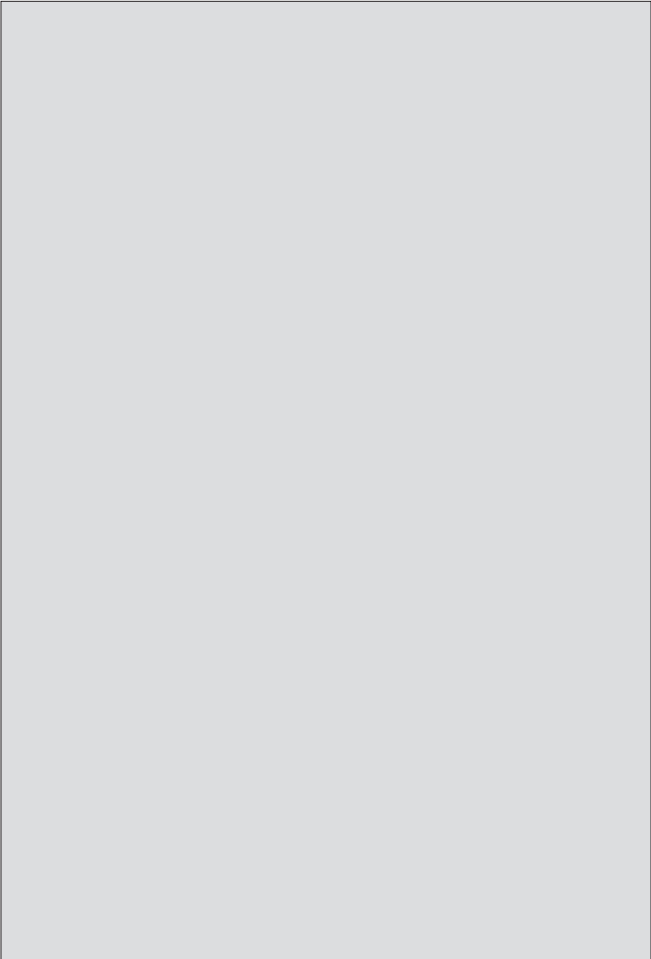
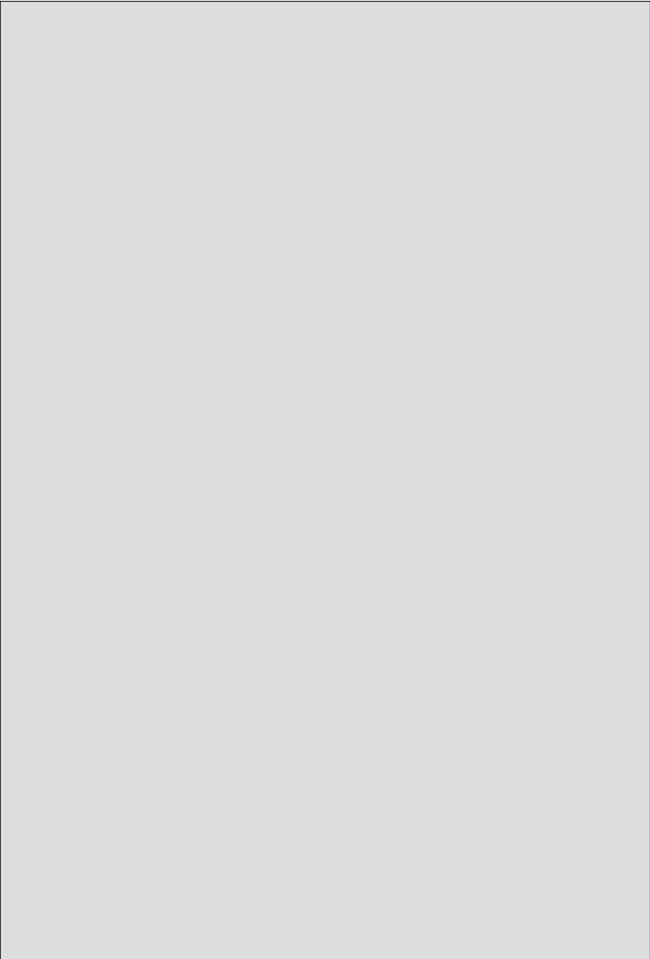


This week in Air Force history ...

Aug. 23, 1937: First wholly automatic landing in history is accomplished.

Aug. 23, 1954: The YC-130 Hercules makes its maiden flight from Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, Calif.





Symbols of pride: AF emblems tie past to future

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

We see them everyday: On uniforms and letterhead, buildings and jets.

Wing and unit emblems are a part of every Airman’s daily life. But where do they come from and what do they mean?

Believe or not, warriors throughout history have created symbols to distinguish themselves from their foes, according to The Heraldry Guide written by William Russell and revised by Julian Godwin, both Air Force Historical Research Agency heraldry archivists. From the eagle of the Roman legions to the embroidered pennons of 12th century knights, these devices were a symbol of pride and allegiance.

The use of heraldic emblems for air arms began in World War I, according to the AFHRA, and by World



The 332nd Fighter Group, home of the Tuskegee Airmen, used this patch until they were disbanded in 1946. Heraldic embelms have been used for air arms since World War I.

War II hundreds of new emblems began appearing both officially and unofficially.

“The 325th Fighter Wing emblem can be traced back to 325th Fighter Group of WWII,” said Tech. Sgt. Brian Hoppe, 325th FW historian. “It wasn’t un-

til 1951 that the 325th FG received approval for the use of the emblem we see today.”

When the Air Force became its own service in 1947, its leaders tried to avoid having units use unauthorized emblems by creating a heraldic program, according to the AFHRA. This program created rules for design, approval and use of organizational emblems. One of the rules states that if a deactivated organization is reactivated, it should use its previous emblem.

The 325th FW did just that, using the emblem of the 325th FG: A black, white and blue background with a lightning bolt streaking across it. Everything in this emblem, as well as in every other Air Force emblem, is symbolic.

“The black, white and blue represent the flying environment in which those who preceded us carried out their mission,” said Sergeant Hoppe. “The black represents the night, the white represents a cloudy sky in bad weather and the blue represents skies of fair weather.”

The lightning bolt signifies the striking power of the all-weather fighters who destroy the enemy under any conditions, he said.

Colors, symbols and where each are placed all play a role in the meaning of the emblem, according to the AFHRA. For example, if a symbol is supposed to depict an organization’s history or mission, it must face to the wearer’s right.

“When you have someone speaking, the flag is to the left of the speaker, in a place of honor,” said Mr. Godwin. “That’s why the symbol must face to the wearer’s right, so when others look at it, it’s facing to the place of honor.”

When creating an emblem, the designer should avoid the obvious, and keep it intersting and simple, according

to guidance from the AFHRA.

Since one of the more important factors in designing an emblem is the organization’s mission, the heraldic program allows organizations to alter the emblem if the mission is changed. However, in the case of the 325th FW, the significance of the emblem still holds true.

“We ‘TRAIN AMERICA’S AIR DOMINANCE FORCE’ to be able to complete their missions in all types of weather, in both day and nighttime environments,” said Sergeant Hoppe. “We also equip our pilots with the best all-weather fighter aircraft so they can strike and destroy the enemy.”

No matter what an emblem may signify, the most important reason to wear your wing and unit patch is esprit de corps, the sergeant said.

“Emblems aren’t so much about historical importance,” said Sergeant Hoppe. “It’s something people identify with.

“These emblems represent who we are and what we do for a living,” he continued. “They also connect us to those who came before us and those who will follow us, forever brothers- and sisters-in-arms.”



The 325th Fighter Wing emblem used today is the same one that was used by the 325th Fighter Group more than 50 years ago.



Funshine NEWS


www.325thservices.com

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www.325thservices.com

Twilight Movie Night

Come out and enjoy a movie under the stars with free popcorn at the Community Center every Friday.

Show time is 8 p.m.

Tonight - Easy Rider

In case of inclement weather, the movie will be shown in the Community Center Ballroom. Some movies might not be suitable for younger audiences.

For more information call
283-2495

Steak & Chop Night

Tonight at O'Club - All Ranks

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

A selection of sliced meats will be displayed on ice to choose from:

**T-Bone Chicken breast
Ribeye Pork chops
New York Strip Lamb chops
Filet**

All meals include dinner salad & cheese cake



Airman Appreciation BBQ

Sep. 2 Lunch 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Behind Berg-Liles

Live music & horseshoe tournament

Free for dorm residents

\$5.80 for BAS customers

Menu: BBQ chicken, BBQ ribs, grilled burgers, hot dogs & much more!



Girls Softball League

Ages 10 & under & Ages 12 & under

Season begins September timeframe and games are held at Southport Recreational facilities.

\$45 Contact Andy at 283-4366 for more details.

Tonight!

Gathering All Officers

to

4th FRIDAY

Come be a part of Tyndall's newest tradition...

◆ Music

◆ Drinks

◆ Food

FREE TACO BAR

For 325th Members: See Members only 10:00

Every 4th Friday at 4:30 p.m. in Checkers' Lounge in the O' Club

Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest

Sep. 3 - 8 a.m.

Contest is for artists of all ages & abilities.

Contestants will have two hours to complete masterpieces.

Deadline to enter is Sep. 1

Several categories from ages 5-18+

Call 283-2495 for more details.

It's Here...

Tyndall IDOL

TONIGHT - The Final 6 Compete The Zone 6 p.m.



PIZZA PUB PARTY ROOM

Great Place for Large Groups Day or Night!

36 people max.

Call 283-3222 to make reservations.

Attention Team Tyndall: Place a *free* classified ad in the Gulf Defender

Military classified ads are placed in the Gulf Defender on a space available basis. Ads must be for a one-time sale of personal goods and should include a complete description, 30 words or less, of item being sold. Forms must be turned in by 2 p.m. Thursday for publication in the following Friday's Gulf Defender. Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to the 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office at 445 Suwannee Rd. Ste. 129 Tyndall AFB, FL 32403, or faxed to (850) 283-3225.

Rank/Name _____

Unit/Office Symbol _____

Duty Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Item description (One ad per form)

(30 words or less)

We value your opinion!

Take a couple of minutes to give us your thoughts on how we can make the Gulf Defender better:

Did the front page grab your attention? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel there is a good mix of local, command and Air Force-level news? Yes ☐ No ☐

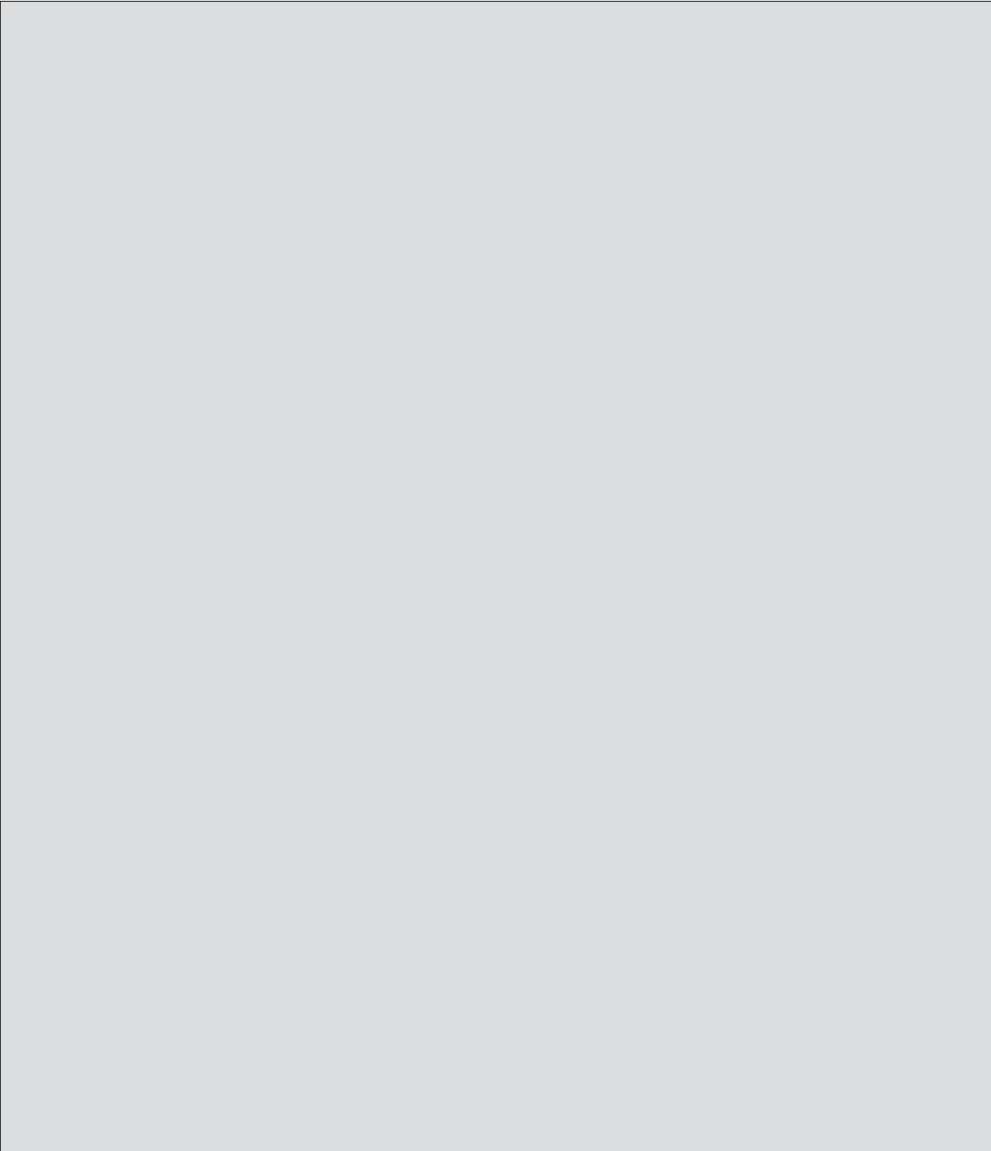
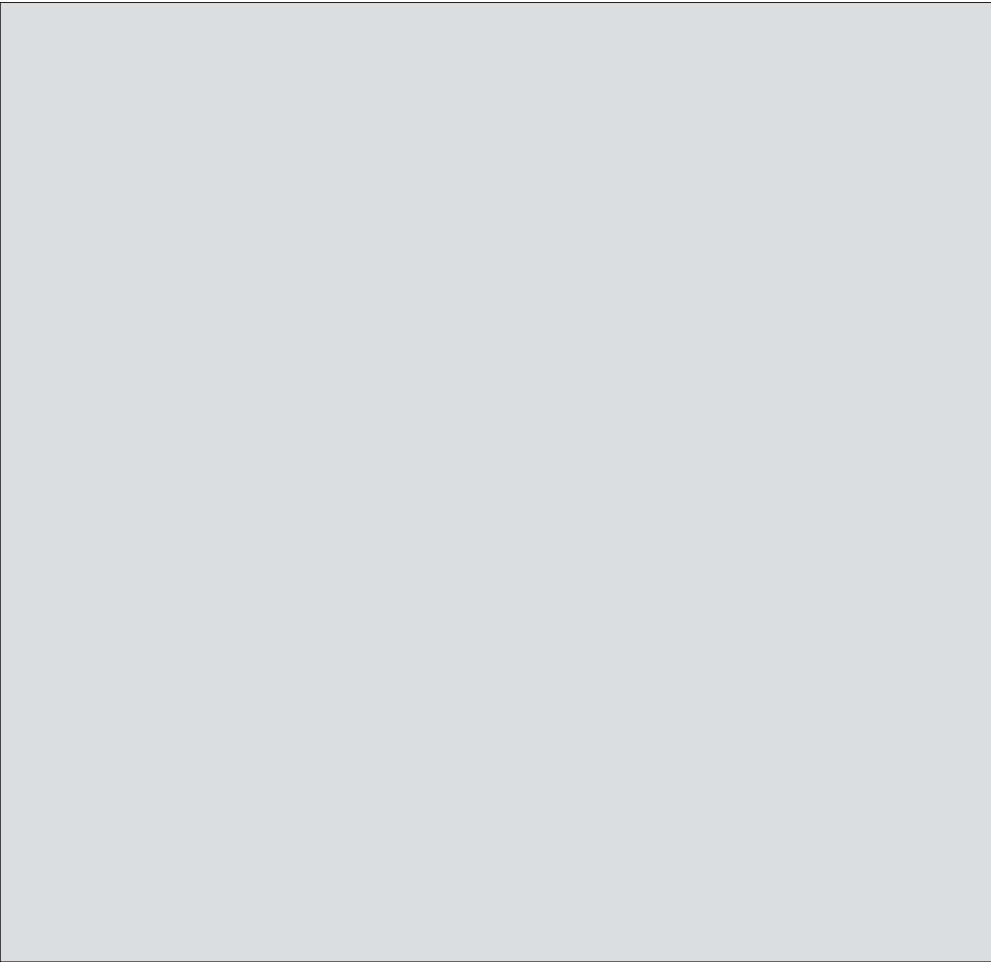
Do the photos encourage you to read accompanied articles? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is the Gulf Defender easy to read and follow? Yes ☐ No ☐

What did you find most interesting in this week's paper? _____

If you could change one thing in the paper, what would it be? _____

Comments: _____



● FROM RIVER PAGE 4

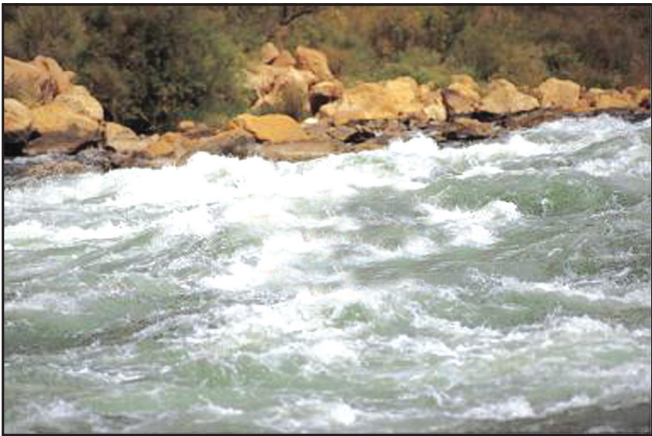
yelling for me to use the stick to push to shore. With a lot of effort fueled by fear, we made it to the rocky slope that was the ‘shore.’ I jumped out of the raft and thanked the heavens that I survived. Then the rope caught my foot.

I was under water in a flash. I had time to think, “I’m going to die like in the movies,” before I somehow reached down and untangled myself. I jumped back up to shore and dragged Dennis out of the water.

The raft continued on without us, carrying our shoes, shirts and my camera away. Jill and Mitzi were to meet us at the lake where the river ended. I was worried about what they might think if they saw that raft float by empty.

We began to hike the seven miles back to the lake. Sharp rocks covered the roadside, cutting our feet as we trudged along wet and defeated. Elderly villagers tending to their gardens glanced at us, surveying two young men who apparently learned a few hard lessons.

I did learn some lessons that day: Use



Courtesy photo

proper equipment while rafting; don’t let your friends talk you into doing something you know isn’t right; and ‘pazzo’ is Italian for crazy. But most importantly, I learned to always use the five-step ORM process: Identify the hazards, assess the hazards, make risk decisions, implement controls and supervise. These steps need not only be applied to military missions; they can also help you with such things as planning a vacation or just driving to work.

ORM is an important tool in protecting the Air Force’s No. 1 resource: Airmen. And if you don’t use it, you could end up just like me on that fateful summer day – all wet or much worse.

● FROM HERO PAGE 6

tanker. Colonel Pardo was one of the wingman left at the scene and took the duty of ensuring the safety of the other pilot upon himself instead of flying to the tanker.

With little fuel and enemy fire hitting his F-4, Colonel Pardo made a historical yet dangerous feat of pushing the other low-fueled damaged aircraft 88 miles to safety using his windshield against the other jet’s extended tailhook.

“The pilot and his plane were going down and on the ground you were either captured or killed almost immediately,” said Colonel Pardo. “If a civilian found him he’d be killed instantly and if the Vietnamese military found him he’d go to jail for years. We all heard the stories of the Vietnam War POWs who had to live in that prison. Neither option sounded good to me. I had to figure out how to get him out.”

It was challenging for Colo-

nel Pardo to figure out the logistics. When he would fly within two-feet of his wingman’s jet, there was a vacuum pull that caused way too much unsafe turbulence. The tailhook could extend six feet so that seemed like the most logical option because it allowed the distance needed to fly as safe as possible.

At 6,000 feet altitude the two pilots ejected into the jungles of Laos, a safer land fall than where their planes would have crash-landed into the village 88 miles behind them. The historical story is called “Pardo’s Push.”

At the ALS, Colonel Pardo used this story to show the example of what happens when leadership goes wrong.

“It is always best to present the positive leadership stories, but occasionally we present the negative ones because we learn from failure, and progress further,” said Colonel Pardo.

First, he said no one should leave their Wingman behind. He called it “flight integrity,” sticking together no matter what. The concept is similar to what the wing here uses when members say “I am an Airman and a Wingman to all other Airmen.”

Second, the mission was not planned as best as it could have been. For 10 days the men flew the same route to the same site at the same time trying to bomb a target. Bad weather would force them to return home only to try the same flight plan the next day. This destroyed the element of surprise.

Today, Colonel Pardo feels more optimistic about military at war because he feels the leadership is more military-focused with a clear outcome goal in mind.

“A lot of what we (U.S. military) did in Vietnam is now a lesson of what not to do for our current leaders,” said Colonel Pardo.

